

UTILITIES

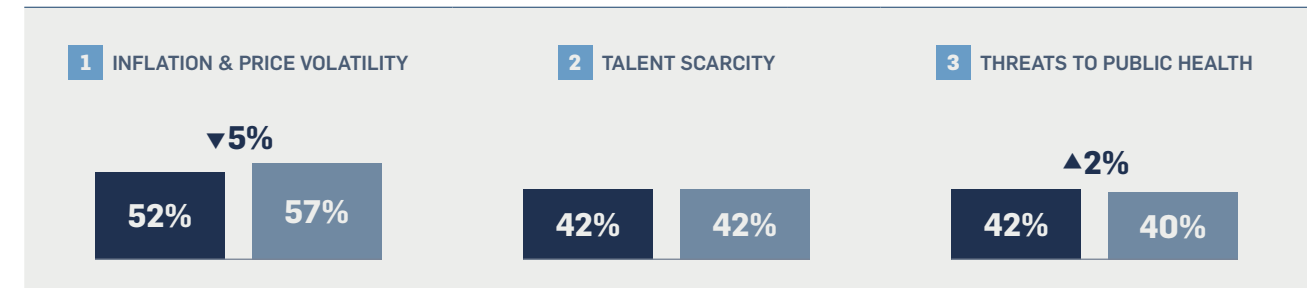
The utility industry must continue to deliver on its obligation to serve – ensuring reliability of basic resources, such as water and electricity, at an affordable rate – while facing new challenges, such as climate change and decarbonization pressure, which have quickly risen to the top of CEO agendas. A radical transformation to a modern, more flexible grid is imperative to support a clean energy future.

“I see us increasing our pace of investment in renewables and networks to allow for the energy transition. From a climate perspective, there are new solutions emerging and opportunities to invest in a more sustainable economy.”

Solange Ribeiro,
Vice-president of Neenergia
and Vice-chair of the Board
of the UN Global Compact

THE MOST PRESSING CHALLENGES

■ UTILITIES ■ CROSS INDUSTRY



CURRENT LANDSCAPE

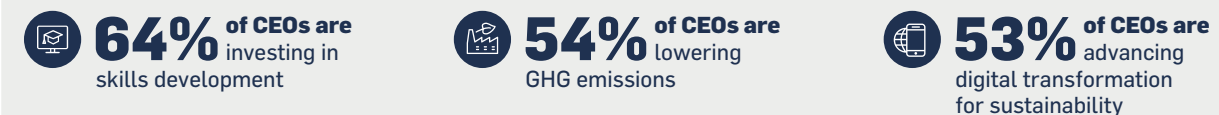
TOP RESILIENCE ACTIONS FOR UTILITIES CEOS



Utility businesses sit at the forefront of private sector decarbonization and sustainability. In the short term, companies are investing in digital processes and technologies to better understand resource usage to make more informed decisions and empower customers to make more sustainable choices. For example, water utilities are working to bring attention to the ongoing water crisis. Paddy Padmanathan, Vice Chairman & CEO of ACWA Power, notes, “We need to elevate this water crisis into the global consciousness and create a level of attention and recognition that this is going to become a big, all-consuming issue as time goes by.” One way water utilities companies are making strides to safeguard the water supply is by leveraging technologies such as Internet of Things, which helps proactively monitor leaks and water security issues, as well as make suggestions for usage changes to consumers. In addition, to transition the industry towards a digital, tech-enabled future, CEOs are focused on their people, leading the industry to focus more than most on the physical and mental well-being of their workforce.

WHERE IS THE INDUSTRY GOING?

TOP SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES FOR UTILITIES CEOS



As the industry shifts to embrace renewables, utilities are evaluating different opportunities to strengthen the grid and bring more renewables online, from battery efficiency improvements to interconnected grids. One area of interest is distributed energy resources (DERs), alternatives that enable utility companies to bring electricity production closer to the end user through options such as rooftop solar panels and wind-generating units. To unlock the true power of smart-grid technologies, utilities are undergoing a massive digital transformation to adopt advanced distribution management systems (ADMS), which provide real-time visibility and control over multiple devices – including DERs, such as renewable facility plants or batteries for storage – to enable smart decision-making and load control.

TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATIONS

